The LORD'S People

"The LORD shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion: rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of Thy youth."

(Psalm 110:2-3)

EVERY system of religion is hostile to Christ. Mohammedanism is a filthy imposture. Judaism curses Christ. Popery, the direct anti-Christ, is immediately opposed to Him. Anglican-popery is also directly opposed to the claims of the Lord Jesus Christ. The world of infidelity and ungodliness—is all hostile to Christ. And yet—*"rule Thou in the midst of Thine enemies."* How are these *"enemies"* to be subjugated? The answer is in the Psalm. *"The Lord shall send the rod of Thy strength out of Zion,"* i.e., His glorious gospel…

…it is the gospel:—not intellect, not science, not philosophy, not forms, not ceremonies, but the simple gospel—we want,—preached from the heart, by faithful men. We want nothing of intellect, or science, to help us. They are great hindrances—science and intellect—the impediments to the gospel in this our day. We want simplicity,—a heart impregnated with the love of Christ, and the lips full of His truth,—they are the weapons by which the Lord Jesus prevails: called "the glorious gospel of the ever blessed God," or, as it ought to read, "the gospel of the glory of the blessed God." You remember what the apostle's estimate of this gospel was, when he said: *"Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed!"* (Galatians 1:8). Is not this apostle going rather too far? is not he somewhat extravagant? No! he repeats it solemnly: *"As we said before, so say I now again: If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that you have received, let him be accursed!"* (Galatians 1:9). Then what an awful thing it is for people to be preaching anything but *"the gospel of the grace of God"* (Acts 20:24).

We come, now, to "the people" to whom the gospel has been made an efficacious word; and we notice several things here. *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power."* I suppose it to be the address of the Psalmist, looking up at once to the Lord Jesus Christ at the right hand of God; and he says, *"Lord, Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power."* From this I infer that they were *"the Lord's"* before they were *"made willing;"* or before God's *"day of power"* was manifested,—for they are *"made willing"* because they are the Lord's people.

There is "a people"—ever has been, and ever will be, in this world, sometimes more in number, sometimes fewer, who are *"the Lord's people,"*—His *"portion,"*—His *"jewels,"*—His *"inheritance,"*—His *"treasure,"* and the partakers of the salvation of the gospel. They have their "fellowship with the Father, and His dear Son Jesus Christ" [1 John 1:3]. They have been *"delivered out of the power of darkness, and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son"* (Colossians 1:13). They are *"born again:"* they are *"new creatures in Christ Jesus;"* they have *"passed from death unto life;"* they are those *"whose conversation is in heaven,"* and who are *"seeking the things above, where Christ is, at the right-hand of God."* [AMEN!] — Copied 1873

SOVEREIGN GRACE CHURCH

March 5th, 2023

We gather together
Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. and
Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m.

Nursery available for 4 years old and younger

"In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS."

(Jeremiah 23:6)

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"FOR none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's" (Romans 14:7-8).

Beloved, in this world, or the world to come, we are "His." There, you see, is Christ's "people." Now the blessedness of that "people" is, that they are under His care, His special charge. He is *"the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls"* (1 Peter 2:25). He is *"the Captain of their salvation"* (Hebrews 2:10). He is "the Surety of their everlasting covenant" [Hebrews 7:22], leading them on their heavenly way,—feeding them with heavenly manna, *manifesting Himself* to their souls, as *He does not unto the world* [Matthew 11:25]. All this Christ does. And He says, *"I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish."* Perish? what! one of Christ's people perish? The throne of God must be pulled down, before one member of Christ can ever perish! "I give unto them eternal life, *and they shall never perish;* neither shall any man;"—not any man—any being: go through the whole universe, think of any hostile being that you can, in your own mind, and invest him with the power of a creature,—yet none shall be able to *"pluck them out of My hand."* [AMEN!] — Copied 1873

WELCOME

SINNERS are welcome at Sovereign Grace Church. We are a local body of the Lord Jesus Christ. As you spend time with us, you'll soon discover we're an imperfect assembly, with an imperfect pastor, yet by God's underserved grace, we preach, believe, and know the perfect gospel of our never failing Lord Jesus Christ. Reader, we call His name Jesus for He shall (not might, not maybe) rather He shall save His people from their sins. And beloved believing sinner you already know it! You are *complete in Him*, saved to the *uttermost* [Colossians 2:10, Hebrews 7:25].

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Happy Birthday!
Liviu Irimia, March 8th

RESOURCES

BE sure to visit our website for gospel articles, live messages, and resources.

The Shepherd knows His sheep

"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27)

MY friend, if you want to know the mark of true sheep, they follow the Shepherd; that is the mark of Christ's sheep—they know the Shepherd's voice, and go where He leads. Do we not get the Shepherd's voice in this blessed book. Sometimes we get like Peter, and follow at a distance; but you know that is a bad place to be in, at a distance. Sheep are known by following close to the Good Shepherd.

Sometime ago, when [a dear brother] and myself were in Chicago, a missionary arrived from Syria, and a friend said to him: "Do the shepherds all bring their sheep to the water at once?" "Yes, they bring them down for refreshment." And that is how I think the sheep gather together for refreshment, and you know not what they are, except that they are Christ's sheep.

But when the sheep have finished, they all follow their own shepherd. Well, my friend asked if they ever refused to follow the shepherd. "Yes, sometimes a sheep gets sick, and then he will not follow." Now I want you to be charitable to everyone. I used to see Christians doing what I thought was not right, and I said: "Why, they are not Christians." But now I think every man should be taken at his word; and if he makes a profession of faith in Christ Jesus, I believe him. When you see such an one doing what is not becoming of a Christian, going apparently over to the world, do not say he is not a sheep—that may be wrong; but say he is a sick sheep, that he is not healthy; and sick sheep go their own ways, and after their own hearts, too.

Healthy sheep are known by following the shepherd. *"My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow Me."* Now, did you ever see a sick sheep? It is a sad thing to see a sick sheep in the flock. You know that very often in England there is a very bad disease among sheep—the foot and mouth disease; and these two parts are always diseased together. The disorder breaks out in the foot, and then soon after it appears in the mouth. Well, when a Christian visits you, and by-and-by begins to talk of Brother so-and-so, and commences to tell you something bad about him, you just get as far away as you can from that one. He has the mouth disease, and it is very catching; get away from him. The Lord [will not have His] sheep to be [spiritually] sick, but to be well and healthy.

Now look at that little [expression *"I know them;"*] it has been one of the greatest comforts to me of any [portion] in this blessed book: *"I know them."* My friends, you might pass through the busy streets of London, and they could not tell you were a Christian; you would not, perhaps, see any one you know, or get a kind word. The first time I came to London, I was walking in Oxford street, and there were thousands of people passing along that thoroughfare, but not one knew me, and I felt utterly lonely there. How sweet a thing it is for us to understand that, though the world may not know us, yet Christ says: "I know you—the Shepherd knows His sheep." [AMEN! Matthew 28:20 *"and, lo, I am with you alway"*] — Copied 1883